

**Committee Form for
PHIP Steering Committee
September 27, 2006
Davenport Hotel, Spokane Washington**

Simple notes are all that is needed – and one page for now. Thanks!

Committee: Key Health Indicators Committee

Key themes to stress about this topic?

Community assessment is an essential element of public health. Key statewide public health indicators reported by each county will provide the means to monitor trends and differences within the state and direct programs and policies to improve these health outcomes.

Accomplishments this two-year period

1. Statewide public health indicators will be selected and published at the county-level.
2. Ways to support and increase the capacity of local community health assessment will be determined, including training, access to tools and resources, and increasing data availability.
3. Access indicators will be selected and included in the set of statewide public health indicators.
4. An assessment of technology tool needs to support local community health assessment will inform us on how to proceed.
5. Report card?????

Greatest challenges facing this aspect of public health?

1. Sample size in some counties are too low for some indicators – there is a need for more funds to increase survey sample sizes.
2. Increasing the capacity for all LHJs to conduct community health assessment takes a commitment for funding an adequate level of staffing and providing the resources to complete the work at the local and state level, including technology.
3. Training will be needed on how to use the set of core indicators in conjunction with the performance measures in our local health departments to improve services (program and policy changes.)

Recommendations

1. Support and provide resources to fund community health assessment activities, including data availability, technology and workforce development.

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Committee: Performance Management Committee

Key themes to stress about this topic?

Standards and measures provide a framework to measure the public health system, identify gaps and show the way to improve the overall functioning, creates a common language and terminology, provides specific results for presentation to policy makers. It is important to use the results of the measurement to improve the quality of the entire system.

Identification of one area for system-wide improvement: Establish and monitor performance measures. This allows for improvements to build on each other and for learning collaboration.

Accomplishments this two-year period

1. Assessment of the 35 health departments, 25 sites in DOH and the State Board of Health.
2. Results of assessment published and system wide improvement selected.
3. Revision of Standards and Measures, development of glossary, new matrices of applicability.
4. Development of Health Indicators.
5. Consultations provided to five health departments and DOH about how to improve in one area of performance.
6. Learning Collaborative focusing on improving goals, objectives and performance measurement.
7. Development of the Environmental Health performance measures related to program performance.
8. Development of Performance Measures for Child and Family Health program components.

Greatest challenges facing this aspect of public health?

1. Sustainability of the effort.
2. Understanding on the part of the policy makers about the importance of the work.
3. Ability of the state work to fit into national efforts.
4. Education of public health workers regarding the importance of the work

Recommendations

1. Continued funding and support of the work.
2. Continued support on the part of public health leadership.
3. Use the results to understand the gaps in the system and provide funding.
4. Provide more opportunities for Public Health Staff to become oriented to the work.

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Committee: PHIP Workforce Development Committee

Key themes to stress about this topic?

Public Health work is labor intensive. A skilled and engaged workforce is essential to achieve public health goals, standards, etc.

Accomplishments (this two-year period)

1. SmartPH - disseminated across the state to both local and state public health agencies. Workers have access to and are taking courses to improve their knowledge and skills.
2. Public Health 101 – a web-based collection of written materials, PowerPoint presentations, on-line learning and web resources that provide a range of introductions to the field of public health for a range of audiences and uses.
www.doh.wa.gov/phip/wfd/resources/category/PH101.htm
3. Public Health Orientation for New LHJ Leaders – on-line orientations for new LHJ Administrators, Health Officers, Environmental Health Directors, Public Health Nursing Directors and Community Health Assessment staff. www.doh.wa.gov/pho
4. Training specified in the Standards – an initial listing/categorizing of available courses from across the country that address topics specified in the standards.
5. Delivery of Logic Model training to: PHIP Steering Committee, PHELF, others by request
6. On-line Orientation to the Standards – in development.
7. Recruitment and Retention Project – in-process. Conducting key informant interviews with public health leaders to better understand the problem, focus groups with public health workers to better understand what attracts and keeps them in public health; development of strategies to maximize the results of our collective efforts to attract and keep a skilled workforce.

Greatest challenges facing this aspect of public health?

1. Recruitment and Retention – attracting, retaining and continuing to develop a skilled and engaged workforce.
2. Lack of consensus across 36 agencies on training standards or priorities for public health workers.
3. Decentralized system of 36 different agencies, using 36 different processes, standards, guidelines, etc.
4. Funding for recruitment activities, compensation and workforce development.

Recommendations

1. Recruitment – combine efforts where feasible, to publicize and attract potential workers to the field of public health. Implement strategies to attract, keep and develop workers.
2. Implement a process to reach consensus on shared training standards or priorities for public health workers.

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Committee: Public Health Information Technology Committee

Key themes to stress about this topic?

The importance of IT coordination among the 36 primary public health agencies in Washington State continues to increase. PHIT is working to develop a process by which these partners can achieve coordination and reach consensus when needed. This work is slow, and involves both social and political issues of coordination across different agencies and jurisdictions. It also involves technical issues bringing together different platforms, architectures, connectivity and ever changing technology. PHIT is attempting to envision what technology coordination looks like across our decentralized public health system. Technology will make a difference in public health outcomes through coordinated systems and data – we just need to figure out how to get from here to there.

Accomplishments (this two-year period)

1. Received training and have begun to deliver training to peers on “Business Process Analysis.” (BPA)
2. Have infused the use of BPA into at least two projects outside of the committee: Public Health Assessment Technology Tools (PHATT) and Standards Database Design.
3. Rapidly convened partners to coordinate around grant applications.
4. Begun work on statewide coordination by developing a Public Health Technology Coordinating Board.
5. Will provide mini-grants to LHJs for technology training.
6. Public Health Assessment Technology Tools (PHATT) – co-sponsored this project to analyze business needs and technology solutions of community health assessment staff.

Greatest challenges facing this aspect of public health?

1. Decentralized infrastructure and data systems between 36 agencies.
2. Need for technology coordination across the system.
3. Funding for coordination appropriate technology and updates/replacement coordination.
4. Minimum IT competencies for 100% of PH staff in Washington.

Recommendations

1. Develop a Public Health Technology Coordination Board.
2. Provide support for continuing IT education of PH staff.

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Committee: Access Committee

Key themes to stress about this topic?

Access has gotten the attention at both local and state levels.

Accomplishments this two-year period

1. Provided input on Access Indicators to the PHI-PM Subcommittee.
2. Collected models of community access projects-now ready for publication.
3. Completed the one pager on LHJs and Access.

Greatest challenges facing this aspect of public health?

1. What are our boundaries in the role of public health in addressing access.

Recommendations